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DEPARTMENT FOR PRM

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TAGS: PREF PGOV IZ JO

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON IRAQIS IN JORDAN - JUNE 14

REF: A. AMMAN 2502

1B. AMMAN 2458

Classified By: Classified by Ambassador David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

Early indications of FAFO Study Results

11. (C) FAFO researcher Kristin Dalen, who oversees the Norwegian NGO's survey of Iraqis in Jordan now underway, told poloff that many people will be surprised by the low number of Iraqis in Jordan, and implied that FAFO's estimate might be as low as 250,000. Dalen recognizes the potentially controversial nature of the issue, and FAFO will defer to Jordan's MFA to release the final estimate. She said FAFO will send the final report to sampling experts worldwide to confirm the results and methodology. Nonetheless, she anticipates that critics may challenge FAFO if it finds significantly fewer Iraqis than some expect. Dalen will be in Jordan at the end of June, and plans to present the survey's main demographic, health, education, work status, and residency status indicators to the MFA in early July. The report will include maps depicting the relative population densities for Iraqis in Jordan.

Education Programs

12. (SBU) Emboffs attended a UNICEF-organized donor coordination meeting on June 11 focused on educational assistance. NGOs reviewed the June 8 Requests For Proposals (RFPs) released by PRM, and were eager to unite their efforts on summer readiness programs given the limited timeframe and a desire to insure uniform curriculum and geographic standards. They suggested to Emboffs that PRM might amend the RFPs to include the possibility of an umbrella-grant funding model to accomplish these goals.

13. (SBU) UNICEF presented draft terms of reference for the proposed Ministry of Education chaired steering committee. If accepted by the MOE, membership would include officials from Jordan's Ministries of Education, Interior, Planning and Social Development; UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and USAID. UNICEF planned to present the proposed terms of reference to the Ministry of Education on June 14.

14. (SBU) UNHCR representatives told Emboffs on June 12 that UNHCR would be able to fund newly hired teachers' salaries resulting from school expansions. UNHCR could commit to reimbursing the teacher's wage bill on an annual basis, dependent on progress and accountability. MOE's SecGen previously suggested (ref A) that should an additional 30,000 Iraqi school-age children seek education in August, 1,000 new teachers would be needed - an approximate annual cost of \$3.6 million USD.

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